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Occupational Employment and Wages in Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville – May 2014

Workers in the Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of $21.17 in May 2014, about 7 percent below the nationwide average of $22.71, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were higher than their respective national averages in 1 of the 22 major occupational groups: architecture and engineering. Eleven groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including legal; construction and extraction; and education, training, and library.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 7 of the 22 occupational groups, including architecture and engineering; food preparation and serving related; and sales and related. Conversely, nine groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including transportation and material moving; production; and management. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2014

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Palm Bay	United States	Palm Bay	Percent difference [1]
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	$22.71	$21.17*	-7
Management	5.0	3.3*	54.08	53.91	0
Business and financial operations	5.1	5.0	34.81	32.03*	-8
Computer and mathematical	2.8	3.8*	40.37	38.85	-4
Architecture and engineering	1.8	4.5*	39.19	41.18*	5
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.5*	33.69	33.73	0
Community and social services	1.4	1.2*	21.79	20.76	-5
Legal	0.8	0.6*	48.61	37.68*	-22
Education, training, and library	6.2	5.3*	25.10	20.65*	-18
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	0.8*	26.82	23.07*	-14
Healthcare practitioner and technical	5.8	6.8*	36.54	35.05	-4
Healthcare support	2.9	3.5*	13.86	13.33*	-4
Protective service	2.4	2.3	21.14	18.27*	-14
Food preparation and serving related	9.1	11.2*	10.57	10.40	-2
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	3.5*	12.68	11.68*	-8
Personal care and service	3.1	2.6*	12.01	12.42	3
Sales and related	10.5	11.9*	18.59	15.94*	-14

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2014 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Palm Bay	United States	Palm Bay	Percent difference [1]
Office and administrative support	16.0	16.0	17.08	15.13*	-11
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	[2]	12.09	[2]	
Construction and extraction	3.9	3.9	22.40	17.41*	-22
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.2	21.74	20.29*	-7
Production	6.6	4.7*	17.06	16.56	-3
Transportation and material moving	6.8	4.3*	16.57	16.52	0

[1] A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Palm Bay is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

[2] Estimate not released

* The percent share of employment or mean hourly wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

One occupational group—architecture and engineering—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville had 8,710 jobs in architecture and engineering, accounting for 4.5 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 1.8-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was $41.18, significantly above the national wage of $39.19.

Some of the largest detailed occupations within the architecture and engineering group included aerospace engineers (1,040), electronics engineers, except computer (1,030), and industrial engineers (950). Among the higher paying jobs were aerospace engineers and electronics engineers, except computer, with mean hourly wages of $50.40 and $48.12, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were surveying and mapping technicians ($18.77) and electrical and electronics engineering technicians ($23.49). (Detailed occupational data for architecture and engineering are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/2014/may/oes_37340.htm.)

Location quotients allow us to explore the occupational make-up of a metropolitan area by comparing the composition of jobs in an area relative to the national average. (See table 1.) For example, a location quotient of 2.0 indicates that an occupation accounts for twice the share of employment in the area than it does nationally. In the Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville Metropolitan Statistical Area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the architecture and engineering group. For instance, aerospace engineers were employed at 10.6 times the national rate in Palm Bay, and electronics engineers, except computer, at 5.4 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, civil engineers had a location quotient of 0.7 in Palm Bay, indicating that this particular occupation's local and national employment shares were similar.

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Note

A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

Technical Note

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are also surveyed, but their data are not included in the national estimates. OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Forms are mailed to approximately 200,000 sampled establishments in May and November each year. May 2014 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2014, November 2013, May 2013, November 2012, May 2012, and November 2011. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 74.3 percent based on establishments and 70.5 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 57.1 percent of total national employment. (Response rates are slightly lower for these estimates due to the federal shutdown in October 2013.) The sample in the Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,081 establishments with a response rate of 78 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and 821 detailed occupations for the nation, states, metropolitan statistical areas, metropolitan divisions, and nonmetropolitan areas. In addition, employment and wage estimates for 94 minor groups and 458 broad occupations are available in the national data. OES data by state and metropolitan/nonmetropolitan area are available from www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcst.htm and www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcma.htm, respectively.

The May 2014 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Information about the 2010 SOC is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/soc and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

Area definitions

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The **Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, Fla. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Brevard County.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/southeast. Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm. Detailed technical information about the OES survey is available in our Survey Methods and Reliability Statement on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/oes/2014/may/methods_statement.pdf.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2014

Occupation [1]	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level [2]	Location quotient [3]	Hourly	Annual [4]
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	8,710	2.5	$41.18	$85,650
Architects, Except Landscape and Naval	110	0.8	[5]	[5]
Surveyors	[5]	[5]	15.17	31,550
Aerospace Engineers	1,040	10.6	50.40	104,830
Civil Engineers	280	0.7	42.20	87,790
Computer Hardware Engineers	330	3.0	41.13	85,550
Electrical Engineers	610	2.4	41.57	86,470
Electronics Engineers, Except Computer	1,030	5.4	48.12	100,080
Environmental Engineers	70	0.9	34.99	72,770
Health and Safety Engineers, Except Mining Safety Engineers and Inspectors	80	2.2	42.67	88,760
Industrial Engineers	950	2.8	41.87	87,090
Marine Engineers and Naval Architects	60	5.4	39.39	81,930
Materials Engineers	30	0.9	47.15	98,070
Mechanical Engineers	590	1.5	44.38	92,300
Engineers, All Other	1,070	6.0	52.77	109,750
Architectural and Civil Drafters	160	1.3	22.86	47,550
Electrical and Electronics Drafters	[5]	[5]	29.48	61,310
Mechanical Drafters	90	1.0	25.70	53,450
Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technicians	[5]	[5]	40.19	83,590
Civil Engineering Technicians	90	0.9	22.54	46,880
Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technicians	850	4.4	23.49	48,870
Industrial Engineering Technicians	270	2.9	30.89	64,240
Mechanical Engineering Technicians	150	2.3	28.14	58,530
Engineering Technicians, Except Drafters, All Other	220	2.3	33.28	69,210
Surveying and Mapping Technicians	110	1.5	18.77	39,040

[1] For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_37340.htm .

[2] Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.

[3] The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.

[4] Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a 'year-round, full-time' hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.

[5] Estimate not released.